

Afternoon Alert - Friday, June 22, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and TV Asahi reported on the collapse of concrete-block walls in Takatsuki City due to the recent quake, saying that even though experts pointed out the danger three years ago, the city dismissed their concerns. NTV and TBS gave top play to updates on the murder of a real estate mogul in Wakayama. Fuji TV led with a report on the hot weather across Japan today.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan-DPRK joint venture companies suspected of sending illegal remittances to DPRK

TBS reported at noon on the finding that the Financial Services Agency (FSA) has ordered all financial institutions in Japan to submit the transaction records of ten Japan-DPRK joint venture companies suspected of sending illegal remittances to North Korea. According to the network, the ten companies were jointly established by companies and organizations of Japan and North Korea, and they are suspected of involvement in illegal remittances and money laundering. The network said the FSA may impose administrative punishments on the companies if illegal transactions are confirmed.

- [10 firms suspected of illicitly diverting funds to North Korea](#) (The Mainichi)

DOS spokesperson says no meeting planned with North Korea as of now

TV Asahi reported at noon that DOS spokesperson Nauert told reporters on Thursday that there is no plan for Secretary of State Pompeo to meet with senior North Korean officials this week. The network said that according to the South Korean media, although Secretary Pompeo requested that

talks be held in North Korea, the Secretary has been unable to visit North Korea because the North Korean side has yet to disclose who will be in charge of the negotiations.

- [Abe eyes visiting Iran in July, 1st by Japan leader in 40 yrs](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan refrains from voicing concern over U.S. withdrawal from UN Human Rights Council](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Next on Kim Jong Un's to-befriend list: Shinzo Abe](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Former IAEA analyst on verification of DPRK denuclearization process](#) (Asahi)
- [Reporter comments on atmosphere at U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore](#) (Mainichi)
- [Dismantling Pyongyang's weapons relies heavily on U.S.](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Kim Jong Un's "balance diplomacy"](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: Japan-North Korea game](#) (Mainichi)
- [Tomodachi women's leadership program celebrates fifth year, draws over 200 students](#) (Tokyo Shimbun, Evening edition)

ECONOMY

- [Japan faces hidden costs from U.S. natural gas imports](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Impact of trade rows vexes central bank chiefs](#) (The Japan News)

SCIENCE

Japan to seek partial resumption of commercial whaling

Friday evening's Nikkei wrote that at the annual conference of the International Whaling Commission scheduled for September in Brazil, the Japanese government is likely to propose the partial lifting of the existing moratorium on commercial whaling. According to the article, the GOJ is aiming to seek the IWC's consent for hunting humpback whales because scientific research shows that the specie's population appears to be recovering.

POLITICS

- [Two DPRK-related parliamentary unions differ in approach to North Korea](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP Takeshita faction to support one single candidate in presidential race](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Prime minister's schedule on June 21, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [56% "not optimistic" about Abenomics, Nihon Yoron Chosakai poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Koizumi considered most suitable to serve as next LDP president, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

Can Japan make it to the World Cup finals?

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the Japanese national soccer team and its historic victory over Colombia in the FIFA World Cup on June 19. Takeshi Okada and Philippe Troussier, former head coaches of the Japanese national team, appeared on the show and said there is more than a

60% chance that Japan will be able to advance to the finals. The two coaches talked about Japan's victory over Colombia and the keys to winning its next game against Senegal.

- [Infographic: Change in power relations in the home over past 30 years, poll of wives](#) (Mainichi)
- [Infographic: Households with full-time homemakers and two-income households \(1980–2017\)](#) (Mainichi)

SECURITY

Okinawa vice governor lodges protest over F-15 crash

Asahi and Mainichi reported online that Okinawa Vice Governor Jahana visited Kadena AB on Friday and filed a protest with 18th Wing Commander Cunningham over the crash of a USAF F-15 in waters off Naha on June 11 and asked that training involving the fighter jets be suspended until the cause of the accident is determined. Speaking to the press afterward, the vice governor said Brigadier General Cunningham did not offer an apology and justified the resumption of F-15 drills two days later by saying that safety inspections were carried out as extensively as possible.

Suga says Japan to suspend missile evacuation drills for time being

NHK reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga told reporters this morning that the GOJ has decided to forgo the missile evacuation drills requiring the participation of local residents that were scheduled to take place in nine prefectures this year based on the judgment that tension in the region been eased in the wake of the U.S.-DPRK summit in Singapore. The network said the GOJ has conducted 29 evacuation drills across Japan since last March. Suga was quoted as saying: "We will forgo drills that require the participation of local residents for the time being." But Suga also reportedly said that the GOJ will continue to hold drills using the J-Alert system.

- [Defense chief seeks consent to deploy land-based missile shield](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Okinawa Governor Onaga to refer to "Okinawa after U.S.-North Korea summit" at annual memorial ceremony](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Possible bullet found outside US base in Okinawa](#) (NHK)
- [Measures against radioactive material theft to be beefed up](#) (The Japan News)
- [China cleverly buying up Japan's land](#) (THEMIS)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Shed in Okinawa possibly damaged by stray bullet fired by U.S. military gun

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times gave prominent front- and inside-page coverage to an incident in Okinawa on Thursday in which a stray bullet was discovered inside a farm shed in Nago after two of its windows were broken. Nobody was injured in the incident. Because the storage shed is located next to Camp Schwab, where live ammunition firing drills take place occasionally, the local police reportedly launched an investigation based on the suspicion that the stray bullet perhaps came from a U.S. military gun. According to Okinawa Times, the U.S. military informed the prefectural

government via the Okinawa Defense Bureau on June 13 that live-fire training would be conducted at several ranges on the base for a week beginning on June 18. NTV carried a similar story.

According to the Okinawa reports, the prefectural government is set to lodge a protest with the U.S. military if the police confirm that the stray bullet was fired from a U.S. military gun. Ryukyu Shimpo added, however, that the SOFA may stand in the way of the police investigation, pointing out that the U.S. military has denied its involvement in at least 6 of 28 similar incidents that have occurred in the island prefecture since its return to Japan in 1972.

- [U.S. military refuses to meet with Okinawa protesters](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [American teacher in Okinawa wins two local music awards](#) (Okinawa Times)
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